

## Department of Foreign Languages

### Completed Events

The French section sponsored a group of ten cadets on an AIAD to Rochefort, France, from 28 May - 16 June. The cadets attended a basic level language course at the Center for French instruction at Rochefort, a language program run by the *Gendarmerie Nationale*. During their time in Rochefort, cadets attend three weeks of intensive language training—focused primarily on oral comprehension and speaking—for six hours per day, five days per week. In addition to the classroom instruction, a key element of the Rochefort AIAD experience includes visiting local cultural and historical sites in the Rochefort area and practicing real-world situations, such as ordering meals, purchasing tickets, and navigating the area via public transportation. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert ([annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu](mailto:annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu)).



**In this photo: Cadets attend a cocktail hour with the staff of the Gendarmerie's French language school and with other international officers and NCOs attending the school.**

The French section sponsored a group of three cadets (Michael Wilke, 2013; Reid Jacobson, 2014; and Jarron Lord, 2014) on an AIAD to Gabon with the French Army's 6<sup>th</sup> Combined Arms Overseas Regiment from 7 – 21 June. The cadets were each paired with a French Platoon Leader in the motorized infantry company of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Infantry Battalion. They participated in a battalion-level FTX and a humanitarian aid mission to rural villages in southeastern Gabon, conducted familiarization training with French weapons and equipment, and spent 3 days at the French Army's tropical forest survival and training school. This AIAD permits cadets to be immersed in the French language and French military culture, and to experience a taste of Francophone African culture. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert ([annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu](mailto:annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu)).



**In this photo: Cadets Michael Wilke (L), Reid Jacobson (C) and Jarron Lord (R) pose for photo with their French Army hosts from the Motorized Company of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Infantry Battalion in Libreville, Gabon.**

## **Current Events**

### ***Summer AIADs***

**Arabic.** Currently, the Arabic section - in conjunction with AMIDEAST – is leading a group of four cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development (AIAD) trip to Jordan that will continue to 12 July. The cadets will spend 4 days/week in an Intensive Arabic Program at Al Qasid University in Amman, Jordan. Cadets will spend their remaining time being introduced to famous cultural sites in and around Amman. POC is MAJ Donna Hess ([donna.hess@usma.edu](mailto:donna.hess@usma.edu)).



**In this photo: Arabic speaking cadets, Patrick McMillan, Andrew Houchin and Langston Clark enjoy a climb to the outskirts of Amman, Jordan.**

Currently, the Arabic section is leading a group of four cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development (AIAD) trip to Marrakech, Morocco that will continue to 4 July. The cadets are traveling without faculty escort. The cadets will spend 4 days/week in an Intensive Arabic Program and will spend their remaining time being introduced to famous cultural sites in and around Marrakech. POC is MAJ Donna Hess ([donna.hess@usma.edu](mailto:donna.hess@usma.edu)).



**In this photo: Arabic speaking cadets, Christa McKee, Thomas Ryan, Chris Murray and Angela Vargas prepare for a four wheel excursion on the Atlantic shore of Morocco.**

*Chinese.* Currently, Major Matthew Radik and the Chinese section are leading a group of eight cadets on a summer AIAD trip to Changchun, China that will continue to 6 July. The cadets arrived at Jilin University, Changchun, China on the morning of 18 June (Monday). The cadets are beginning their second and last week of intensive language study. They have 4 hours of class in the morning, two hours of one-on-one tutoring after lunch, and one hour of culture class (tai chi or calligraphy) to end the day. On Sunday morning, Major Radik took the cadets to the Museum of the Imperial Palace of the “Puppet” Manchurian State. Here the cadets learned more of the less known history of Japan’s occupation of Northeastern China beginning in 1931. On Monday, Jilin University’s President, Dr. Yuanyuan Li had dinner with the cadets and Major Radik. During dinner, Dr. Li expressed his appreciation of the West Point-Jilin University relationship and reconfirmed his invitation to West Point leadership to visit Jilin University.

POC is MAJ Matthew Radik ([matthew.radik@usma.edu](mailto:matthew.radik@usma.edu)).



**In this photo: West Point cadets, Major Radik, and other Jilin University faculty with the President of Jilin University, Dr. Yuanyuan Li (front row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left) before dinner on Monday night.**

**French.** Currently, the French section is sponsoring a group of ten cadets on an AIAD to Rochefort, France that will continue to 14 July. The cadets are attending an advanced level language course at the Center for French instruction at Rochefort, a language program run by the *Gendarmerie Nationale*. During their time in Rochefort, cadets attend three weeks of intensive language training—focused primarily on oral comprehension and speaking—for six hours per day, five days per week. In addition to the classroom instruction, a key element of the Rochefort AIAD experience includes visiting local cultural and historical sites in the Rochefort area and practicing real-world situations, such as ordering meals, purchasing tickets, and navigating the area via public transportation. From 6-8 July, the cadets will attend the *Cérémonie de l'Hermione*, a festival in Rochefort celebrating the Marquis de Lafayette's voyage to America to support the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Since the late 1990s, ship-makers at Rochefort have re-created by hand a replica of the *Hermione*, the name of the LaFayette's boat, and the boat will launch from Rochefort on Saturday, 7 July. The cadets will attend the ceremony, which will attract some 50,000 people from across France and the EU, in formal fashion (white over gray) and sit in the VIP stand with local representatives from Rochefort and the Gendarmerie base. CPT Ron Hijduk and Dr. Steve Verolla will conduct a site visit from 9-11 July to attend 2 days of classes with the group. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert ([annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu](mailto:annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu)).

Currently, the French section is sponsoring a group of four cadets on a MIAD to French Airborne School that will continue to 7 July. The cadets will participate in French Airborne School along with cadets from the French military academy at St.-Cyr and with officers and NCOs from the French Army and armies throughout the Francophone world. The cadets will

participate in 5 jumps; learn about the differences between US and French airborne operations, equipment, and procedures; and earn the French jump wings. The cadets are able to improve their competence in the French language and increase their understanding of French military culture through this great training opportunity. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert ([annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu](mailto:annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu)).

Currently, the French section is sponsoring a group of ten cadets on an AIAD to Rochefort, France that will continue to 11 August. The cadets are attending an intermediate level language course at the Center for French instruction at Rochefort, a language program run by the *Gendarmerie Nationale*. During their time in Rochefort, cadets attend three weeks of intensive language training—focused primarily on oral comprehension and speaking—for six hours per day, five days per week. In addition to the classroom instruction, a key element of the Rochefort AIAD experience includes visiting local cultural and historical sites in the Rochefort area and practicing real-world situations, such as ordering meals, purchasing tickets, and navigating the area via public transportation. MAJ Annmarie Ruppert will conduct a site visit from 23-26 July to attend 2 days of classes with the group. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert ([annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu](mailto:annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu)).

**German.** Currently, the German section is sponsoring a group of four cadets on a summer AIAD to the Austrian Military Academy that will continue to 10 July. The cadets are spending four weeks in an intensive cross-cultural program of physical, marksmanship, and field/alpine training with the cadets and staff of the Theresian Military Academy in Wiener-Neustadt. The cadets are gaining knowledge of Austria and Austrian Army operations. Cadets are improving their competence in speaking, listening and comprehension of German through a 4-week language course at the Academy. The program is also designed to enhance cultural knowledge through interaction with military counterparts and the local populace, and immersion in day-to-day life situations. POC is MAJ Jordan Francis ([jordan.francis@usma.edu](mailto:jordan.francis@usma.edu))

Currently, the German section will lead a group of six cadets on a summer AIAD trip to various Bundeswehr units in Southern and Central Germany that will continue to 6 July. Cadets will spend three weeks in intensive cross-cultural program of physical, marksmanship, field training, and garrison operations with a combat or combat support unit of the Bundeswehr. The cadets will gain knowledge of Germany and German Army operations. Cadets will improve their competence in speaking, listening and comprehension of German. The program is designed to enhance cultural knowledge through interaction with military counterparts and the local populace, and immersion in day-to-day life situations. POC is MAJ Jordan Francis ([jordan.francis@usma.edu](mailto:jordan.francis@usma.edu))

**Portuguese.** Currently, the Portuguese section is leading a summer military individual advanced development (MIAD) trip to Brazil that will continue to 21 July. Three cadets will spend five weeks in Brazil as guests of the Brazilian Army and the Brazilian Military Academy. Cadets will attend a 2-week mountaineering training at the Military Academy as well as a 2-week air assault training at the Army Aviation Instruction Center. At the completion of the training, cadets will qualify to receive the “Montanha” (Mountain School) patch from the Brazilian Army. Once the school is completed, they are to return to Rio de Janeiro (city) to stay at the Brazilian Military Engineering Institute (IME) and to visit cultural and historical cities in the city in the company of

the USMLO officer and representatives from IME. POC is Dr. Rebecca Jones-Kellogg ([rebecca.jones-kellogg@usma.edu](mailto:rebecca.jones-kellogg@usma.edu)).

Currently, Mr. António M.A. Igrejas, Dr. Lewis and the Portuguese section is leading a summer AIAD trip to Portugal that will continue to 11 July. Ten cadets have completed their stay in the city of Porto, in northern Portugal. There, they were able to experience the festivities of St. John's Day (São João), which historically had locals hitting each other on the head with foul-smelling leeks (alho-porró) and jumping over bonfires. Current standards have transformed the leeks into plastic hammers and the bonfires into fireworks, but the cadets were still able to sample local food and customs. They also spent a day in the historic city of Braga, "where the priests are made," visiting the panoramic church of Bom Jesus and the Celtic ruins at Citânia dos Briteiros, which dates back to the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE. The groups are currently in Coimbra, Portugal, home to the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest university in Europe (the University of Coimbra, where we have a SAP program) and which is also one of the oldest cities in Portugal.

POC is Mr. António M.A. Igrejas ([antonio.igrejas@usma.edu](mailto:antonio.igrejas@usma.edu))

**Russian.** Currently, the Russian section is leading a group of cadets on a summer AIAD trip to Russia that will continue to 14 July. Cadets spent 1 day in Moscow, getting a brief tour of some of the major sights (Red Square, the Kremlin, Arbat Street) and visiting a major souvenir fair. While in Voronezh the cadets are living with local residents, with whom they'll eat breakfast and dinner every day for additional language immersion. They took a placement test during the first day of classes and jumped right into lessons. After lunch they took a brief walking tour of the center of Voronezh, learning about its difficult history during WWII (The Great Patriotic War), during which much of the city was occupied by the Germans for over 6 months. By the time the Red Army liberated the city, over 90% of the city's buildings were destroyed. They also learned of Voronezh's ties to Peter the Great, who started constructing Russia's first naval fleet in the city. POC is LTC Michael Nerstheimer ([michael.nerstheimer@usma.edu](mailto:michael.nerstheimer@usma.edu)).



**In this photo:** Russian speaking cadets with one of their instructors in front of the monument to Peter the Great in the center of the city of Voronezh.

**Spanish.** Currently, Dr. Jonathan Steigman and the Spanish section is leading a summer AIAD trip to Mexico that will continue to 7 July. Cadets will spend three weeks visiting significant military commands as well as study national politics, economics, history, and geography in an immersion setting as they travel to various cities and regions in Mexico. POC is Dr. Jonathan Steigman ([jonathan.steigman@usma.edu](mailto:jonathan.steigman@usma.edu)).

### **Future Events**

**Arabic.** From 23 July to 11 August, the Arabic section is leading a group of 7 cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development (AIAD) trip to Marrakech, Morocco. The

cadets will travel without faculty escort. The cadets will spend 4 days/week in an Intensive Arabic Program and will spend their remaining time being introduced to famous cultural sites in and around Marrakech. POC is MAJ Donna Hess ([donna.hess@usma.edu](mailto:donna.hess@usma.edu)).

***Russian.*** From 21 July to 11 August, the Russian section will lead a group of cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development trip to Ukraine. Cadets will two weeks of intensive language instruction at the NovaMova Language School in Kiev, designed to increase Russian language proficiency, enhance their regional expertise and promote cultural awareness. Cadets will tour historically and culturally significant sites throughout Ukraine, interacting with the local population in day-to-day situations. POC is LTC Michael Nerstheimer ([michael.nerstheimer@usma.edu](mailto:michael.nerstheimer@usma.edu)).

***Spanish.*** From 9 to 29 July, CPT Adam Riggs and the Spanish section will lead a summer AIAD trip to Chile. Cadets will spend three weeks in Chile as guests of the Chilean Armed Forces and the Chilean Military Academy. Cadets will visit significant military commands, as well as study national politics, economics, history, and geography in an immersion setting as they travel to various cities and regions in Chile. POC is CPT Adam Riggs ([adam.riggs@usma.edu](mailto:adam.riggs@usma.edu)).